

21518

Selkirk County Council



REPORT

OF THE

COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER

FOR THE

Year 1953

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2016 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b28656684>

Selkirk County Council

REPORT

OF THE

COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER

FOR THE

Year 1953

STAFF

At 31st December, 1953

Medical

A. F. MCCOUBREY, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., County Medical Officer.

I. B. SUTHERLAND, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., Assistant Medical Officer

DOROTHY M. M. FORTH, M.B., Ch.B., Assistant Medical Officer.

Nursing.

Burgh of Galashiels—MISSES M. F. BATHGATE, B. KING, N. L. ROTHNEY, J. B. SCOTT.

Burgh of Selkirk—MISSES CHEYNE and MORRICE.

Landward Area—MISS M. RICHARDSON.

Sanitary, Etc.

A. I. FRASER, Area Sanitary Inspector—Landward.

R. G. BRUCE—Burgh of Galashiels.

T. BEATTIE, F.I.A.A.—Burgh of Selkirk.

MISS E. M. THOMPSON—Joint Milk Officer.

Clerical

Clerical Staff of Health Department of Roxburgh County Council.

Changes in Staff.

Dr KENNEDY CAMPBELL, M.A., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., L.M., Assistant Medical Officer—resigned 11th August, 1953.

Miss M. E. D. WILSON, Clerkess—resigned 30th November, 1953.

To

THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH FOR SCOTLAND AND THE
CONVENER AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS OF THE COUNTY OF
SELKIRK.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration my Annual Report for 1953.

The vital statistics for the year, with one exception, call for little comment. The exception is the number of confirmed new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis notified during the year. In 1953 the number was twenty-six, this being the fifth year in succession that an increase has occurred. In 1949 the number of confirmed new cases was twelve.

The fact that for the seventh year in succession not one case of diphtheria has occurred in the County is very gratifying. Such results cannot be maintained however, unless continued and persistent efforts are made to have at least 75 per cent. of our child population immunised. During the past three years, the percentage of children in the County immunised each year is well below this figure. There is no doubt that many young mothers have never seen or heard of a case of diphtheria, and the absence of this dread disease and its complications may have led to a false state of complacency. I would appeal to all parents to have their children immunised before the children reach their first birthday. The protection offered by the simple procedure of immunisation is admirably illustrated by the fact that in 1941, 517 children died from diphtheria in Scotland; in 1953 there were only 2 deaths from diphtheria.

I would again take this opportunity to thank the Chairman of the Health and Welfare Committee and the members of the County Council for their encouragement. I would also express my thanks to the General Practitioners in the County for their help and co-operation at all times. I am also indebted to the staff of the Health Department for their loyal assistance and to my fellow officials for guidance and advice.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

A. F. MCCOUBREY,
Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS

Population (estimated to middle of 1953)

| | |
|--------------------|--------------|
| Landward | 3,213 |
| Burghs— | |
| Galashiels | 12,388 |
| Selkirk | 5,862 |
| | <hr/> 18,250 |
| | <hr/> 21,463 |

Births.—The births corrected for transfers were:—

| | Total | Male | Female | Illegitimate |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------|
| Landward | 51 | 29 | 22 | 4 |
| Burghs— | | | | |
| Galashiels | 197 | 114 | 83 | 8 |
| Selkirk | 93 | 45 | 48 | 3 |
| | <hr/> 341 | <hr/> 188 | <hr/> 153 | <hr/> 15 |

The birth rate of 15.9 is 0.7 higher than the figure recorded in 1952. Illegitimate births amounted to 4.4 per cent. of the total.

The number of Still-Births was 6, giving a rate of 17 per 1,000 total births (including still-births).

Marriages.—One hundred and thirty-two marriages were registered during the year, giving a marriage rate of 6.2 per 1,000 of the estimated population.

Deaths.—The number of deaths, corrected for transfers, was 293, of which 152 were of men and 141 of women. The death rate adjusted for age and sex distribution, was 13.7. The rate for Scotland was 11.5.

The numbers, causes and age-groups of death are shown in the tables on pages 6 and 7.

INFANTILE MORTALITY

The number of deaths of children aged less than one year was 10 and of this number 7 were aged less than four weeks. The infant mortality rate was 29 per 1,000 live births.

1953—Causes of Death

| | All Ages. Both Sexes. | M. F. | Under 4 weeks | 4 weeks | 1— | 5— | 10— | 15— | 25— | 35— | 45— | 55— | 65— | 75— | 85 and over |
|---|--------------------------------|---------|---------------------|------------|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------------------|
| Tuberculosis of respiratory system | 3 | 1 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | — | 1 | — | — |
| Tuberculosis, other forms | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Syphilis and its sequelae | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Typhoid Fever | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| Dysentery, all forms | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Scarlet fever and streptococcal sore throat | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Diphtheria | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Whooping Cough | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Meningococcal infections | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Acute Poliomyelitis | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Measles | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Other infectious and parasitic diseases | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| Malignant neoplasms | 30 | 19 11 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 4 | 8 | 9 | 8 | 1 |
| Benign and unspecified neoplasms | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | — |
| Diabetes mellitus | 3 | 1 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | — | — |
| Anaemias | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Other general diseases | 2 | 1 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| Vascular lesions affecting central nervous system | 52 | 18 34 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 9 | 18 | 17 | 7 |
| Nonmeningococcal meningitis | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Other diseases of nervous system | 6 | 4 2 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Rheumatic fever | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | 1 | — | — | — |
| Chronic rheumatic heart disease | 3 | 1 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Arteriosclerotic and degenerative heart disease | 93 | 53 40 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 3 | 12 | 23 | 37 | 17 |
| Other disease of heart | 9 | 3 6 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | 5 | 2 |
| Hypertension with heart disease | 5 | 1 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 3 | — | — |
| Hypertension without heart disease | 3 | 1 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | 1 | — |
| Other circulatory disease | 8 | 4 4 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 |
| Influenza | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Pneumonia | 13 | 8 5 | — | 2 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 3 | 4 | 2 | — |
| Carry forward | 234 | 126 120 | — | 2 | 1 | 2 | — | — | 2 | 2 | 18 | 39 | 71 | 80 | 29 |

| 1953—Causes of Death | All Ages. Both Sexes. | | M. F. | | Under 4 weeks | | 1-4 weeks | 5-10 | 15-25 | 35-45 | 55-65 | 75-80 | 85 and over |
|---|-----------------------|-----|-------|---|---------------|---|-----------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------------|
| | 246 | 126 | 120 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Brought forward | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bronchitis | 3 | 2 | 1 | | | | 2 | 1 | — | 2 | 39 | 71 | 29 |
| Other respiratory diseases | 4 | 3 | 1 | | | | 1 | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Ulcer of stomach and duodenum | 5 | 3 | 2 | | | | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | 2 | — |
| Appendicitis | — | — | — | | | | — | — | — | — | 3 | — | — |
| Intestinal obstruction and hernia | 3 | 2 | 1 | | | | — | — | — | 1 | 2 | — | — |
| Gastritis and duodenitis | — | — | — | | | | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Diarrhoea (except of newborn) | — | — | — | | | | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Cirrhosis of liver | 1 | 1 | — | | | | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| Other diseases of liver | 2 | 2 | — | | | | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Other digestive diseases | — | — | — | | | | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Nephritis and nephrosis | 2 | 1 | 1 | | | | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Hyperplasia of prostate | — | — | — | | | | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Other diseases of genito urinary system | 4 | 1 | 3 | | | | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | 1 | — |
| Puerperal sepsis including post abortive sepsis | — | — | — | | | | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Other puerperal causes | — | — | — | | | | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Diseases of skin and organs of locomotion | 2 | — | 2 | | | | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| Congenital malformations | 2 | 2 | — | | | | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Birth injuries, post natal asphyxia and atelectasis | 2 | 2 | — | | | | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Pneumonia of newborn | 1 | 1 | — | | | | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Diarrhoea of newborn | — | — | — | | | | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Other infections of the newborn | — | — | — | | | | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Other diseases peculiar to early infancy | 3 | 2 | 1 | | | | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Senility | 10 | 4 | 6 | | | | — | — | — | — | 2 | 4 | 4 |
| Causes ill-defined and unknown | — | — | — | | | | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Suicide | — | — | — | | | | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Motor vehicle accidents | 3 | 2 | 1 | | | | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Other road transport accidents | — | — | — | | | | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Other violence | 12 | 6 | 6 | | | | — | — | — | 2 | 2 | 5 | — |
| | 293 | 152 | 141 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 2 | — | 2 | 3 | 21 | 80 | 33 |

The numbers, causes and age-groups of infantile deaths are shown in the following table:—

Infantile Mortality

| Cause of Death | No. of Deaths | M | F | Death Rate per 1000 Births | Age Groups | |
|---|---------------------|---|---|----------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|
| | | | | | under 4 weeks | 4 weeks to 1 year |
| Pneumonia (except of new born) | 2 | 2 | — | 5.86 | — | 2 |
| Congenital malformations | 2 | 2 | — | 5.86 | 1 | 1 |
| Birth injuries, post natal asphyxia and atelectasis | 2 | 2 | — | 5.86 | 2 | — |
| Pneumonia of new born | 1 | 1 | — | 2.93 | 1 | — |
| Other diseases peculiar to early infancy | 3 | 2 | 1 | 8.80 | 3 | — |
| | 10 | 9 | 1 | — | 7 | 3 |
| | — | — | — | 29 | 20.53 | 8.80 |

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

During 1953, 300 immunisations were notified as having been completed, and 364 booster doses were given.

The table on page 9 shows the number of vaccinations completed during the year.

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE

Tuberculosis

The number of cases notified as suffering from Tuberculosis was 30 of which 26 have been confirmed.

The notifications are divided according to sex and form of lesion as follows:—

| | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|--------|----|
| Pulmonary Tuberculosis | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | Male | 9 |
| | | | | | | Female | 14 |
| | | | | | | | — |
| | | | | | | | 23 |
| Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | Male | 3 |
| | | | | | | Female | 4 |
| | | | | | | | — |
| | | | | | | | 7 |
| Tuberculosis—All Forms | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | Male | 12 |
| | | | | | | Female | 18 |
| | | | | | | | — |
| | | | | | | | 30 |

Vaccination

| Year of Birth of persons | Number of persons primarily vaccinated during period | | | | Number of persons re-vaccinated during period | | | | Complications at Vaccinations |
|--------------------------|--|--|----------------------------------|-------------------|---|--|----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| | Typical vaccinia greatest at 7th-10th day | Accelerated (vaccinoid) reaction 5th-7th day | Reaction greatest at 2nd-3rd day | No local Reaction | Typical vaccinia greatest at 7th-10th day | Accelerated (vaccinoid) reaction 5th-7th day | Reaction greatest at 2nd-3rd day | No local Reaction | |
| 1953 | 125 | — | — | 7 | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1952 | 85 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1951 | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1950 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1949 | 5 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1948 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1947 | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| 1946 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1945 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1944 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1943 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1942 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| 1941 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1940 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1939 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1938 or earlier | 2 | — | — | — | 9 | 2 | 12 | — | — |
| Totals | 221 | — | — | 8 | 10 | 2 | 13 | — | — |

Including patients receiving Sanatorium treatment, there were at the end of the year 126 persons, resident in the County, known to be suffering from Tuberculosis. Classification of these patients according to age and localisation of the disease is shown in the table on page 11.

Co-operation with the Area Tuberculosis Physician during the year has resulted in good progress with regard to the care and after-care of persons suffering from Tuberculosis, and domiciliary nursing visits by the District Nursing Sisters were commenced during the year.

A grant of one pint of milk daily was made to all patients residing at home who were certified by the Area Tuberculosis Physician as requiring it. At the end of the year 10 persons were benefitting from this scheme.

The Housing Authorities in the area continue to give sympathetic consideration to applications made by, or on behalf of, those suffering from Tuberculosis.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

One hundred and forty-three notifications of infectious disease (excluding tuberculosis) were received during the year, of which 68 cases were removed to hospital, as follows:—

| | Notified | Removed |
|--|-----------|----------|
| Dysentery | 1 | 1 |
| Erysipelas | 2 | — |
| Acute Influenzal Pneumonia | 1 | — |
| Acute Primary Pneumonia | 7 | 5 |
| Pneumonia, not otherwise notifiable .. | 4 | 4 |
| Poliomyelitis, Acute | 1 | — |
| Scarlet Fever | 55 | 52 |
| Whooping Cough | 72 | 6 |
| | <hr/> 143 | <hr/> 68 |

MENTAL HEALTH

| | |
|---|----|
| Number of children on active register at January 1st, 1953 .. | 18 |
| Number added to register, January-December, 1953 | 11 |
| Number removed from register, January-December, 1953 .. | 2 |

(1 epileptic boy removed to Edinburgh)

(1 epileptic girl died)

Tuberculosis

| | Number of Cases in Age-Groups | | | | | | | | | Total |
|---|-------------------------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------|
| | Under 1 | 1 and under 5 | 5 and under 10 | 10 and under 15 | 15 and under 25 | 25 and under 35 | 35 and under 45 | 45 and under 65 | 65 and upwards | |
| Respiratory— | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Sputum or other material examined and tubercle bacilli found { M F | — — | 1 — | — — | — 1 | 2 12 | 7 11 | 7 4 | 9 2 | — — | 26 30 |
| 2. Sputum or other material examined and tubercle bacilli never found { M F | — — | 3 — | 1 — | 1 1 | 3 7 | 4 4 | 4 2 | 2 4 | 1 2 | 19 20 |
| 3. Sputum or other material not examined { M F | — — | — — | — — | 1 — | — 2 | — — | — — | — 1 | 1 — | 2 3 |
| Total | — | 4 | 1 | 4 | 26 | 26 | 17 | 18 | 4 | 100 |
| Non-Respiratory | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Abdominal { M F | — — | — — | — — | — — | — 1 | — 2 | 1 — | — — | — 1 | 1 4 |
| 2. Spine { M F | — — | — — | 2 — | — — | — — | 2 1 | — 1 | — 1 | — — | 4 3 |
| 3. Bones and joints (exclusive of spine) { M F | — — | 1 — | — — | — — | — 1 | — — | — — | — — | — — | 1 1 |
| 4. Superficial glands { M F | — 1 | 2 — | — 1 | — 1 | 2 — | 1 — | — 1 | — 1 | — — | 5 5 |
| 5. Lupus { M F | — — | — — | — — | — — | — — | — — | — — | — — | — — | — — |
| 6. Other parts or organs { M F | — — | — — | — — | — — | — — | — — | — 2 | — — | — — | — 2 |
| Total | 1 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 26 |
| Respiratory and Non-Respiratory Total | 1 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 30 | 32 | 22 | 20 | 5 | 126 |

The remaining 27 children may be classified as follows:—

Medical Classification

| | | | | | | Males | Females |
|--|----|----|----|----|----------|----------|----------|
| Epileptic (not associated with mental deficiency) | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | — |
| Behaviour disorder (not associated with mental deficiency) | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | — | 1 |
| Mentally dull | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | 2 | — |
| Feeble-minded | .. | .. | .. | .. | 14 | 10 | 4 |
| Mongol | .. | .. | .. | .. | 6 | 3 | 3 |
| Imbecile | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | — | 1 |
| Idiot | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | — | 2 |
| | | | | | <hr/> 27 | <hr/> 16 | <hr/> 11 |

Educational Classification

| | | | | | | | |
|------------------|----|----|----|----|----------|----------|----------|
| Educable | .. | .. | .. | .. | 20 | 13 | 7 |
| Ineducable | .. | .. | .. | .. | 7 | 3 | 4 |
| Under school age | .. | .. | .. | .. | — | — | — |
| | | | | | <hr/> 27 | <hr/> 16 | <hr/> 11 |

Number of children with both mental and physical handicap 9 4 5

Number of children with mental deficiency associated with epilepsy .. 6 4 2

Three clinical sessions were held by Dr Bailey, the Consultant Psychiatrist at Sime Place Clinic, Galashiels, at which a total of 29 children were examined.

| Date | | | | Cases |
|--------------|----|----|----|----------|
| 13th March | .. | .. | .. | 11 |
| 29th May | .. | .. | .. | 12 |
| 30th October | .. | .. | .. | 6 |
| | | | | <hr/> 29 |

A special class for mentally handicapped children from the county is held at Galashiels Burgh School: the average number on the roll during the year was 15. The children taught in this class range from the mentally retarded to the more severely mentally handicapped, and the excellent results obtained, both educationally and psychologically, are a credit to the patience and skill of the teacher in charge. It is hoped that the Education Committee may find it possible to expand this very necessary service.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

The following patients were on the Council's Register as at 31st December, 1953:—

| | Males | Females |
|---|-------|---------|
| Boarded-out defectives with private guardians . . | 5 | 3 |
| Boarded-out defectives in Local Authority Homes and other accommodation provided under Part III of the Assistance Act, 1948 . . | 1 | 1 |
| Defectives in Certified Institutions | 7 | 14 |
| Mental defective children in Mental Hospitals pending vacancies in Certified Institutions . . | — | 1 |
| Total* . . | 13 | 19 |

*Resident within the County—12

Resident outwith the County—20

Accommodation in Certified Institutions is practically unobtainable and there is at present a waiting list of cases resident in the County who should be receiving treatment in Institutions. All defectives under guardianship are well cared for and properly supervised. They receive regular visitation by medical and authorised officers. Allowances to guardians average 32/6 per week, and, in addition, all necessary clothing and bedding is supplied. There are three authorised officers in the County who co-operate with the local medical practitioners in all matters relating to the mental health service. No occupational centres have been set up owing to the scattered nature of the cases.

St. Mary's Certified Institution

This Institution is now fully operative and provides accommodation for thirty high-grade female defectives over school age. This Home is privately owned and is under the control of the Roman Catholic Authorities. The patients are admitted from all parts of Scotland and receive the best attention and treatment from a qualified staff of Sisters of Mercy. One of the local medical practitioners acts as medical officer and visits regularly. Furnishings and fittings are modern and tasteful and there is no doubt that this Home is an asset to the work amongst the mentally deficient. One young woman is chargeable to Selkirk County.

CHILDREN ACTS

Children's Home

"The Priory," Selkirk, is a Home jointly owned by Berwickshire and Selkirk County Councils. At 31st December, 1953, there were 31 children being cared for in the Home—12 boys and 19 girls. Included

in this total are four infants under one year of age. The health record of the children during the year has been very good. Dr E. H. Duff acts as medical officer and visits regularly.

This Home is now very well equipped and ample bathroom and lavatory accommodation is provided. The rooms are bright and airy and the Home has a very happy atmosphere. The staff are kept very busy and deserve great credit for their work.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS—WELFARE SERVICES

Eildon View Home, Galashiels

This Home is jointly owned by Selkirk and Peebles Counties and has accommodation for approximately 34 residents of both sexes. There has been a daily average of 30 residents during the year. At 31st December there were 20 males and 8 females, including 5 boarders,* resident in the Home.

The Home is now furnished and equipped in accordance with modern ideas and the residents are very well cared for and very comfortable and happy. Dr Henderson acts as supervisory medical officer and visits the Home regularly. This Home has been able to accommodate a few convalescent patients at the request of the Hospital authorities.

Boleside House

This modern Old People's Home is very popular and is always fully occupied—10 males and 12 females. There is at present a waiting list for admission almost as large as the number of beds occupied. The Home is the property of Selkirk County Council and a trained nurse is in charge as Matron. The residents are attended by their own medical practitioners.

Netherby Eventide Home

This Home is owned and managed by the Church of Scotland. It is very well furnished and the residents appear to be very happy indeed. Augmentation of board is paid in 3 cases—1 male and 2 females.

St. Margaret's Home, Hawick

This is a Catholic Home but patients of other religious denominations are admitted when there is a vacancy. The Home is very well managed and is very comfortable. At 31st December there were 2 females chargeable to Selkirk County resident in the Home.

* Boarders—Cases sent by other Local Authorities who are not parties to the combination.

Quarrier's Epileptic Colony, Bridge-of-Weir

The Council has one male patient accommodated in this Home.

Temporary Accommodation

The Council has premises at 63 Back Row, Selkirk, which are used to provide accommodation for persons rendered homeless in a sudden emergency. During the year two families have been accommodated, both by reason of the housing situation. The premises are not first-class but are suitable for an emergency.

Blind

The Welfare of the Blind is delegated to the Society for Welfare and Teaching of the Blind (Edinburgh and South-East Scotland). The Society provides a Home Teacher for the Border Areas. There are 43 blind persons on the register, including 2 workers in the Royal Blind Asylum. Most of the cases are over 70 years of age. Those in the younger age-groups have all been taught to read.

Deaf and Dumb

Arrangements have been made with the Deaf and Dumb Society to provide certain welfare services. There are 9 registered cases in the County for whom we pay £3 per head yearly.

Selkirkshire Committee for the Welfare of the Aged and Handicapped

This Committee was formed two or three years ago and is functioning very successfully. The Committee was responsible for the setting up of a Hot Mid-day Meals Service, which is operating with great success in the County. The Retired Men's and Old Age Pensioners' Clubs are also proving a great benefit.

CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

(1) Ante-natal and post-natal service.

No ante-natal or post-natal clinics are provided by the Local Authority.

(2) Child Welfare Clinics.

Clinics are in operation at Galashiels (twice weekly) and Selkirk (weekly). Attendances during the year are shown in the following table:—

| (1) | No. of clinics provided at end of year (2) | No. of children attending the clinics during year and who on the date of their first attendance were: | | Total No. of attendances made during year by children who at the time of attendance were: | |
|---|---|---|---------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| | | under 1 year of age (3) | over 1 year of age (4) | under 1 year of age (5) | over 1 year of age (6) |
| Local Authority Clinics | 2 | 269 | 181 | 2430 | 954 |
| Clinics provided by Voluntary Organisations | — | — | — | — | — |

(3) Dental Care—Nil.

(4) Mother and Baby Homes—Nil.

(5) Day Nurseries (including 24-hour nurseries) as at end of year:—
Please see separate table on page 17.

(6) Residential Nurseries and Children's Homes provided as part of Authority's arrangements under Section 22 of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act, 1947—Nil.

(7) Nurseries and Child Minders Regulation Act, 1948:—
Please see separate table on page 17.

II. MIDWIFERY

The following is a statistical record of the work carried out under Section 23 of the Act.

(i) Total No. of births occurring in the area during year—that is before correction for mother's residence:—

Live Births, 396 Still Births, 4 Total, 400

(ii) Total No. of births in (i) occurring in institutions (including private maternity homes), 386.

Day Nurseries (including 24-Hour Nurseries) as at end of Year

| | State whether approved for training (2) | No. of approved places | | No. of children on register at end of year | | Average daily attendances during year | | Waiting lists at end of year | |
|---|---|------------------------|---------|--|---------|---------------------------------------|---------|------------------------------|----------|
| | | 0-2 (3) | 2-5 (4) | 0-2 (5) | 2-5 (6) | 0-2 (7) | 2-5 (8) | 0-2 (9) | 2-5 (10) |
| (1) | | | | | | | | | |
| Nurseries provided by Authority— Lay Nursery, Scott Park, Galashiels (closed down 15th May, 1953) | Yes | 10 | 30 | — | — | 7 | 25 | — | — |
| Nurseries provided by Firms of Manufacturers— Gibson & Lumgair, Ltd., St. Mary's Mill, Selkirk | No | 8 | 16 | 1 | 9 | 2 | 14 | — | — |

Nurseries and Child-Minders Regulation Act, 1948

Details of work done by the Authority during the year

| | No. of applications received (2) | No. of Certificates | | | | No. of children being cared for at end of year (7) | No. of inspections made (8) | No. of cases in which no inspection made (9) |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|-------------|---------------|-----------------------------|--|-----------------------------|--|
| | | Issued (3) | Refused (4) | Cancelled (5) | In force at end of year (6) | | | |
| (1) | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Nursery Premises | — | — | — | — | 1 | 10 | — | 1 |
| 2. Child-Minders | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |

(iii) No. of births in (i) occurring at home—Live, 13; Still, 1; Total, 14
It will be noted that fully 96 per cent. of all births in the area during the year took place in Institutions.

(iv) No. of births in (iii) classified to show nature of attendance at birth:—

| (1) | Cases dealt with under Section 23(2) of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act, 1947 | | | Other domiciliary cases | | | Total |
|--|--|---|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------|
| | Doctor engaged and present at confinement (2) | Doctor engaged and not present at confinement (3) | Midwife alone (no doctor engaged) (4) | Doctor and midwife engaged (5) | Midwife alone (no doctor engaged) (6) | Without doctor or midwife (7) | |
| (a) Midwives employed by the Authority (including those engaged on a fee-per-case basis) | 8 | 5 | — | — | — | — | 13 |
| (b) Midwives employed by Voluntary Organisations under arrangements made by the Authority | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| (c) Midwives employed by Hospital Boards of Management under arrangements made by the Authority with the Regional Hospital Board | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| (d) Private practising midwives | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | 1 |
| (e) Totals | 8 | 5 | — | 1 | — | — | 14 |

(v) Medical Aid

(a) No. of cases in which medical aid was summoned during the year under Section 14 (1) of the Midwives (Scotland), Act, 1951, by a Midwife:—

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|----|----|----|----|-------|
| | | | | | Total |
| (i) for Domiciliary Cases | .. | .. | .. | .. | } Nil |
| (ii) for Institutional Cases | .. | .. | .. | .. | |

(vi) Administration of Analgesics

| | | |
|--|-------|---|
| (a) No. of domiciliary midwives in the area qualified to administer gas and air analgesia in accordance with the requirements of the Central Midwives Board for Scotland (including superintendents, non-medical supervisors of midwives, midwife teachers, midwives employed by the local health authority and by voluntary organisations, private practising midwives, and hospital midwives undertaking domiciliary cases under the arrangements made by the local health authority and the Regional Hospital Board but excluding pupil midwives undergoing training on the district) | Total | 6 |
| (i) No. in (a) employed on local health authority work | | 6 |
| (ii) No. in (a) not employed on local health authority work | | — |
| (b) No. of domiciliary midwives who received their training during the year | | — |
| (c) No. of sets of Apparatus for the administration of gas and air in use in the area at 31st December, 1953 . . | | 2 |
| (i) No. in (c) in use by domiciliary midwives employed on local health authority work (including those in use by hospital midwives undertaking domiciliary cases) | | 2 |
| (ii) No. in (c) in use by domiciliary midwives not employed on local health authority work | | — |
| (d) No. of sets on order at 31st December, 1953 . . | | — |
| (e) No. of cases in which gas and air was administered by midwives in domiciliary practice during the year (including cases attended by hospital midwives undertaking domiciliary cases):— | | |
| (i) When doctor was not present at delivery | | 7 |
| (ii) When doctor was present at delivery | | 2 |
| (f) No. of cases in which pethidine was administered by midwives in domiciliary practice during the year (including cases attended by hospital midwives undertaking domiciliary cases):— | | |
| (i) When doctor was not present at delivery | | — |
| (ii) When doctor was present at delivery | | 1 |
| (vii) No. of Cars in use by midwives at 31st Dec., 1953 . . | | 3 |

III. HEALTH VISITING

The Health Visiting is undertaken by the district nursing sisters who carry out combined duties in their respective areas. The following figures relate to health visiting during the year:—

Please see separate table on page 20.

III. HEALTH VISITING.

[illegible]

Note:— *These visits exclude visits paid by a midwife-health visitor who attended the confinement as a midwife or maternity nurse.

IV. HOME NURSING

This service has been efficiently maintained during the year by the District Nursing Sisters.

| | |
|---|--------|
| Number of cases attended by the District Nursing Sisters .. | 931 |
| Number of visits paid to these cases | 14,015 |

V. DOMESTIC HELP

The Scheme functions satisfactorily under the jurisdiction of the Welfare Officer. The following figures relate to the working of the Scheme during the year:—

| | |
|---|----|
| (i) No. of Domestic Helps employed at end of year | 34 |
| (a) whole-time | — |
| (b) part-time | 34 |
| (c) retaining fee basis | — |
| (ii) No. of cases for which Helps were provided during year .. | 87 |
| (iii) No. of cases in (ii) provided on account of confinement:— | |
| (a) at home | — |
| (b) in hospital | 5 |
| (iv) No. of cases in (ii) provided on account of chronic sick including aged and infirm (if available) | 49 |

VI. DOMICILIARY MIDWIFERY AND LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY NURSING SERVICES

Combined Duties in Midwifery, Home Nursing and Health Visiting Services.

| | Directly employ- ed by Local Health Authority Whole-time | No. holding Health Visitor Certificate |
|---|---|--|
| Nurses and Midwives employed on— Midwifery, Health Visiting and Home Nursing duties | 7 | 1 |
| Total | 7 | 1 |

REPORT

OF THE SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st JULY, 1953

List of Staff as at 31st July, 1953

Dr A. F. MCCOUBREY, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., Chief School Medical Officer.

Dr D. M. M. FORTH, M.B., Ch.B., Assist. School Medical Officer.

Miss M. E. D. WILSON, Clerk.

School Nurses

Galashiels—Misses M. F. BATHGATE, N. ROTHNEY,
A. L. MARJORIBANKS and J. B. SCOTT.

Selkirk—Misses CHEYNE and MORRICE.

County—Miss M. B. RICHARDSON.

General Statistics

Population of the area 21,310 (at 30th June, 1952).

Number of Schools:—

| | |
|---|----|
| (a) Primary (under Education Authority) | 19 |
| (b) Secondary (under Education Authority) | 2 |
| (c) (i) Special Schools | — |
| (ii) Special Classes in ordinary schools | 1 |
| (d) In receipt of grant from Education Authority and under medical inspection | — |

Number of children on the registers, *i.e.*, for whole area 2996

Number of children in average attendance .. 2742 (91.5%)

TABLE I.

Total number of children examined at Systematic Examinations:—

Ordinary Schools

| | Boys | Girls | Total |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Entrants—No previous routine inspection .. | 169 | 166 | 335 |
| Second Age Group—Born 1943 | 99 | 114 | 213 |
| Third Age Group—Born 1939 | 114 | 138 | 252 |
| Fourth Age Group—Born 1936 | 21 | 14 | 35 |
| | <hr/> 403 | <hr/> 432 | <hr/> 835 |

Other Systematic Examinations

| | Boys | Girls | Total |
|---|----------|----------|----------|
| Entrants—No previous routine inspection.. | 8 | 13 | 21 |
| Second Age Group—Born 1943 | 3 | 4 | 7 |
| Third Age Group—Born 1939 | — | — | — |
| Fourth Age Group—Born 1936 | — | — | — |
| | <hr/> 11 | <hr/> 17 | <hr/> 28 |

Number of individual children inspected at systematic examinations, who were notified to parents as requiring treatment (excluding uncleanliness and dental caries):—

| | Boys | Girls | Total |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Entrants—No previous routine inspection.. | 81 | 85 | 166 |
| Second Age Group—Born 1943 | 43 | 36 | 79 |
| Third Age Group—Born 1939 | 37 | 41 | 78 |
| Fourth Age Group—Born 1936 | 4 | 6 | 10 |
| | <hr/> 165 | <hr/> 168 | <hr/> 333 |

Number of children examined for Visual Acuity and Hearing only:—

| Boys | Girls | Total |
|------|-------|-------|
| 114 | 116 | 230 |

Number of children re-inspected:—

| Boys | Girls | Total |
|------|-------|-------|
| 4 | 3 | 7 |

| | Age | Boys | |
|---|---------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| | | Weight | Height |
| Entrants—No previous routine inspection | 5 5/12 | 46 lbs. | 44 ins. |
| Second Age Group—Born 1943 .. | 9 4/12 | 68 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. | 52 $\frac{1}{2}$ ins. |
| Third Age Group—Born 1939 .. | 13 6/12 | 97 lbs. | 60 ins. |
| Fourth Age Group—Born 1936 .. | 16 8/12 | 137 lbs. | 67 $\frac{1}{4}$ ins. |

| GIRLS | | | |
|---|----------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Entrants—No previous routine inspection | 5 10/12 | 43 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. | 42 $\frac{1}{4}$ ins. |
| Second Age Group—Born 1943 .. | 9 8/12 | 63 lbs. | 51 ins. |
| Third Age Group—Born 1939 .. | 13 10/12 | 105 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. | 61 $\frac{1}{2}$ ins. |
| Fourth Age Group—Born 1936 .. | 16 9/12 | 123 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. | 64 $\frac{1}{4}$ ins. |

Table II.
SYSTEMATIC EXAMINATIONS.

Return of number and percentage of individual children suffering from particular defects:—

| Nature of Defect | Entrants | | 1st Group | | 2nd Group | | 3rd Group | | Total | | 9% of all children examined |
|------------------------------------|----------|-------|-----------|-------|-----------|-------|-----------|-------|-------|-------|-----------------------------|
| | Boys | Girls | Boys | Girls | Boys | Girls | Boys | Girls | Boys | Girls | |
| 1. Clothing unsatisfactory | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | 2 | 1 | 0.3% |
| 2. Footgear unsatisfactory | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | 0.1% |
| 3. Cleanliness— | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Head—Dirty | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | — | |
| Nits or Vermin | — | 7 | 3 | 4 | — | 1 | — | — | 3 | 12 | |
| Body—Dirty | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | — | |
| Verminous | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 18 | 2.1% |
| 4. Conditions of Skin— | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Head—Ringworm | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | |
| Impetigo | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | — | |
| Others | 2 | — | — | 1 | — | 6 | — | — | 2 | 7 | |
| Body—Ringworm | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | |
| Impetigo | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | |
| Scabies | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | |
| Others | 2 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 9 | — | 1 | — | 14 | 9 | 3.8% |
| 5. Nutrition—Slight Bad | 1 | 3 | — | — | — | 2 | — | — | 1 | 5 | 0.7% |
| 6. Mouth and Teeth unhealthy | 9 | 3 | 8 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 26 | 17 | 5.0% |

Table II.—Continued.

| Nature of Defect | Entrants | | 1st Group | | 2nd Group | | 3rd Group | | Total | | % of all children examined |
|--|----------|-------|-----------|-------|-----------|-------|-----------|-------|-------|-------|----------------------------|
| | Boys | Girls | Boys | Girls | Boys | Girls | Boys | Girls | Boys | Girls | |
| 7. Naso-Pharynx— Nose—Observation Treatment Others | — | 2 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 2 | |
| | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | — | — | — | — | 4 | 3 | |
| | — | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | |
| | 4 | 7 | 3 | 2 | — | 2 | — | — | 7 | 11 | |
| Throat—Observation | 2 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 2 | — | — | — | 5 | 10 | |
| Tonsils—Treatment | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | |
| Glands—Observation | 22 | 9 | 7 | 3 | — | 2 | — | — | 29 | 14 | |
| Treatment | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | 10.3% |
| 8. External Eye Diseases— Blepharitis Conjunctivitis Corn, Opac. Strabismus Others Visual Acuity— Without glasses With glasses For refraction | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | — | |
| | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | — | |
| | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | |
| | 3 | 5 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | 4 | 5 | |
| | 1 | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | 2 | 1 | |
| | — | 2 | 12 | 5 | 8 | 17 | 5 | 4 | 25 | 28 | |
| | — | — | 2 | 2 | 5 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 7 | 9 | |
| | 1 | — | 2 | 1 | — | 5 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 11.1% |
| | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | |
| | 1 | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 2 | |
| 9. Ears—Diseases—Otorrhoea Others Hearing—Grade I. Grade IIA. Grade IIB. Grade III. | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | |
| | 1 | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 2 | |
| | — | — | 1 | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | 2 | 1 | |
| | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | |
| | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 0.7% |
| 10. Speech— Defective Articulation Stammering | 2 | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | 2 | |
| | 1 | 1 | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | — | 3 | 1 | 1.0% |

Table II.—Continued.

| Nature of Defect | Entrants | | 1st Group | | 2nd Group | | 3rd Group | | Boys | Girls | Total | | % of all children examined |
|--|----------|-------|-----------|-------|-----------|-------|-----------|-------|------|-------|-------|-------|----------------------------|
| | Boys | Girls | Boys | Girls | Boys | Girls | Boys | Girls | | | Boys | Girls | |
| 11. Mental and Nervous Conditions— | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Backward (extrinsic) | — | — | — | — | 2 | 1 | — | — | — | — | 2 | 1 | |
| Dull (intrinsic) | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | |
| M.D. (educable) | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | |
| Nervous or unstable | 1 | — | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | — | — | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | |
| Difficult behaviour | — | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | — | — | |
| M.D. (ineducable) | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1.4% |
| 12. Circulatory System— | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Organic (Congenital) | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | |
| Heart (Acquired) | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | 2 | — | — | — | |
| Functional Heart | — | 1 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0.6% |
| 13. Lungs—Chronic Bronchitis | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | — | |
| Tubercle (Suspected) | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | |
| Other Diseases | 1 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | — | — | 3 | 8 | 13 | — | 1.5% |
| 14. Deformities Congenital— | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Infantile Paralysis | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | |
| Acquired—Rickets (prob.) | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | |
| Others | 26 | 27 | 12 | 7 | 15 | 13 | 2 | 1 | 55 | 48 | 105 | — | 12.2% |
| 15. Infectious Diseases | — | 3 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 3 | 3 | 0.3% |
| 16. Other Diseases or Defects | 7 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 4 | — | 1 | 14 | 16 | 30 | — | 3.5% |

Note.—A total of 863 children were examined, each child being examined for all the above groups. The figures given in the last column are percentages of 863.

| | Entrants | Second Age Group | | Third Age Group | | Fourth Age Group | | Total |
|-----------------------------------|----------|------------------|-----|-----------------|-----|------------------|--|-------|
| Eyes—Visual Acuity— | | | | | | | | |
| Total number of children examined | — | 213 | 252 | 35 | 500 | | | |
| Good working vision | — | 199 | 240 | 31 | 470 | | | |
| Fair working vision | — | 7 | 6 | 4 | 17 | | | |
| Bad working vision | — | 7 | 6 | — | 13 | | | |
| For refraction | — | 9 | 7 | — | 16 | | | |

Table III.
SYSTEMATIC MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

| Classification | Entrants | | 1943 | | 1939 | | 1936 | | Total | |
|---|----------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|------|
| | *(a) | *(b) | *(a) | *(b) | *(a) | *(b) | *(a) | *(b) | *(a) | *(b) |
| I. Children free from defects | 181 | 50.9 | 128 | 58.2 | 161 | 63.9 | 23 | 65.7 | 493 | 57.1 |
| II. Children (otherwise free from defects) who suffer from— | | | | | | | | | | |
| (a) Defective vision not worse than 6/12 in the better eye with or without glasses; or | 1 | .3 | 8 | 3.7 | 19 | 7.5 | 5 | 14.3 | 33 | 3.8 |
| (b) Conditions of the mouth and teeth requiring treatment | 10 | 2.8 | 15 | 6.8 | 13 | 5.2 | 2 | 5.7 | 40 | 4.7 |
| (c) Both (a) and (b) | — | — | — | — | 1 | .4 | — | — | 1 | .1 |
| Total | 11 | 3.1 | 23 | 10.5 | 33 | 13.1 | 7 | 20.0 | 74 | 8.6 |
| III. Children suffering from ailments (other than those mentioned in II.) from which complete recovery is anticipated within a few weeks | 71 | 19.9 | 27 | 12.2 | 16 | 6.3 | 1 | 2.9 | 115 | 13.3 |
| IV. Children suffering from (or suspected to be suffering from) defect less remediable than defects specified in II. or III., distinguishing cases— | | | | | | | | | | |
| (a) Where complete cure or restoration of function (in the case of eye defect, full correction) is considered possible | 91 | 25.6 | 40 | 18.2 | 40 | 15.9 | 4 | 11.4 | 175 | 20.3 |
| (b) Where improvement only is considered possible, <i>e.g.</i> , without complete restoration of function | 2 | .5 | 2 | .9 | 2 | .8 | — | — | 6 | .7 |
| Total | 93 | 25.1 | 42 | 19.1 | 42 | 16.7 | 4 | 11.4 | 181 | 21.0 |
| Total Number of Children Examined | 356 | 100 | 210 | 100 | 252 | 100 | 35 | 100 | 863 | 100 |

*(a) Number of Children. *(b) Percentage of children examined in this group.

TABLE IV.

RETURN OF ALL EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN OF SCHOOL AGE IN THE AREA

| Disability | (L) | (M) | (N) | Total |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| 1. Blind | — | — | — | — |
| 2. Partially sighted:— | | | | |
| (a) Refractive errors in which the curriculum of an ordinary school would adversely affect the eye condition | — | — | — | — |
| (b) Other conditions of the eye, <i>e.g.</i> , cataract, ulceration, etc., which render the child unable to read ordinary school books or to see well enough to be taught in an ordinary school | — | — | — | — |
| 3. Deaf:— | | | | |
| Grade I | 3 | — | — | 3 |
| Grade IIa | — | — | — | — |
| Grade IIb | — | — | — | — |
| Grade III | — | — | — | — |
| 4. Defective Speech:— | | | | |
| (a) Defects of articulation requiring special educational measures .. | 15 | — | — | 15 |
| 5. Mentally Defective:— | | | | |
| (Children between 5 and 16) | | | | |
| (a) Educable (I.Q. approx. 50-70) .. | 2 | 10 | — | 12 |
| (b) Ineducable (I.Q. generally less than 50) | 6 | — | — | 6 |
| 6. Epilepsy:— | | | | |
| (a) Mild and occasional | 2 | — | — | 2 |
| (b) Severe (suitable for care in a residential school) | — | — | — | — |
| 7. Physically Defective:— | | | | |
| (Children between 5 and 16) | | | | |
| (a) Non-pulmonary tuberculosis (excluding cervical glands) | — | — | — | — |
| (b) General orthopaedic conditions .. | 70 | — | — | 70 |
| (c) Organic heart disease | 5 | — | — | 5 |
| (d) Other causes of ill-health. . . . | 9 | — | — | 9 |

(L) = At Ordinary Schools. (M) = At Special Schools or Classes.

(N) = At no School or Institution.

EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN

Thirteen girls and forty-nine boys were examined with a view to being passed as fit to undertake certain forms of part-time employment under the Council's Byelaws. In every case a medical certificate was granted.

EYE CLINIC

The following figures relate to treatment carried out at the Eye Clinic from September, 1952, to July, 1953.

| | | | | | Galashiels | Selkirk |
|--|----|----|----|----|------------|---------|
| No. of Clinics held | .. | .. | .. | .. | 11 | 6 |
| No. of Cases treated | .. | .. | .. | .. | 58 | 29 |
| No. of cases for which glasses were prescribed | .. | | | | 28 | 18 |

MINOR AILMENTS

| | | | | | | |
|---|----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| Cuts, bruises, sprains and minor injuries, etc. | .. | .. | | | | 236 |
| Diseases of the ear | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 20 |
| Diseases of the eye, excluding defective vision | .. | .. | | | | 13 |
| Diseases of the skin:— | | | | | | |
| Ringworm (Scalp) | .. | .. | .. | .. | — | |
| X-ray treatment | .. | .. | .. | .. | — | |
| Other treatment | .. | .. | .. | .. | — | |
| Ringworm (Body) | .. | .. | .. | .. | — | |
| Scabies | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 |
| Impetigo | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 30 |
| Others | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 231 |

MINOR DISEASES CLINIC

| | | | | | Galashiels | Selkirk |
|--|----|----|----|----|------------|---------|
| No. of Minor Diseases Clinics held | .. | .. | | | — | 39 |
| No. of treatments given for Minor Diseases | .. | | | | — | 500 |
| No. of treatments given for Scabies cases | .. | .. | | | 30 | 3 |
| No. of individual children treated for Scabies | .. | | | | 11 | 1 |
| No. of U.V.R. Clinics held | .. | .. | .. | .. | 12 | 119 |
| No. of U.V.R. treatments given | .. | .. | | | 12 | 1291 |

ORTHOPAEDIC SCHEME

CHILDREN

Staff

Consultant Surgeon—Mr GEORGE POLLOCK, F.R.C.S.

Physiotherapist—One, six hours per week.

Physical Training Staff—One, part-time, two-and-a-half days per week.

Summary

373 cases were dealt with during the year 1952-53 compared with 335 during the previous year.

406 attended the Consultant Surgeon's monthly Clinics compared with 423 during the previous year.

7,693 was the figure for attendances at Treatment Clinics compared with 7,286 last year.

316 Home Visits were made compared with 328 last year.

| Children | Galashiels | | Selkirk | |
|-------------------------------|------------|------------|---------|------------|
| | School | Pre-School | School | Pre-School |
| No. on Register—Sept., 1952 | 136 | 84 | 84 | 31 |
| New Cases | 29 | 16 | 31 | 9 |
| Discharged | 7 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Discontinued (Left school) .. | 3 | 5 | 3 | — |
| Left District | 3 | 6 | 3 | 2 |
| No. on Register—Sept., 1953 | 151 | 81 | 109 | 32 |

Consultant Surgeon's Clinics, 1952-53

| | | | | | Galashiels | Selkirk |
|-------------------|----|----|----|----|------------|-----------|
| September | .. | .. | .. | .. | 25 | 21 |
| October | .. | .. | .. | .. | 22 | 12 |
| October | .. | .. | .. | .. | 19 | — |
| November | .. | .. | .. | .. | 24 | 19 |
| December | .. | .. | .. | .. | — | 20 |
| January | .. | .. | .. | .. | 23 | 19 |
| February | .. | .. | .. | .. | 27 | 19 |
| March | .. | .. | .. | .. | 28 | — |
| April | .. | .. | .. | .. | 23 | 24 |
| May | .. | .. | .. | .. | — | 29 |
| June | .. | .. | .. | .. | 29 | 23 |
| Total .. | | | | | 220 | 186 = 406 |

Institutional Treatment

| Hospital | In resi- dence 1.9.52 | Ad- mitted | Died | Disch. | Trans | In resi- dence 1.9.53 |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|------|--------|-------|--------------------------------|
| Peel | 1 | 6 | — | 7 | — | — |
| Princess Margaret Rose | 1 | 4 | — | 5 | — | — |

Classification of Hospital Cases

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Claw Feet | 2 |
| Flat Feet | 2 |
| Fracture | 1 |
| Knock Knees | 1 |
| T.B. Knee | 1 |
| Old Poliomyelitis | 1 |
| Osteomyelitis | 1 |
| Hallux Valgus | 1 |

Classification of Cases seen by Consultant Surgeon at Clinics, 1952-53

| | New | Old |
|----------------------------|-----|-----------|
| Flat Feet | 41 | 124 |
| Knock Knees | 29 | 85 |
| Tight Plantar Fascia | 6 | 40 |
| Metatarsus Adductus | 6 | 4 |
| Hallux Valgus | 2 | 5 |
| Spastic Paresis | 1 | 11 |
| Talipes Calcaneus | 2 | 4 |
| Bow Legs | 2 | 3 |
| C.H.D. | — | 3 |
| Poliomyelitis | — | 3 |
| Hypertrophy | 1 | 2 |
| Deformity of Toes | 1 | 5 |
| Torticollis | 1 | — |
| Posture | 2 | 12 |
| Talipes Varus | 2 | 8 |
| Facial Paresis | — | 1 |
| Shortness, Leg | — | 10 |
| Total | 96 | 310 = 406 |

Record of Clinic Attendances for 1952-53

| | | | Galashiels | | Selkirk | |
|-----------|----|----|------------|------------|---------|------------|
| | | | School | Pre-School | School | Pre-School |
| September | .. | .. | 268 | 59 | 253 | 32 |
| October | .. | .. | 377 | 82 | 273 | 32 |
| November | .. | .. | 363 | 80 | 281 | 29 |
| December | .. | .. | 301 | 61 | 248 | 22 |
| January | .. | .. | 375 | 82 | 288 | 34 |
| February | .. | .. | 397 | 86 | 296 | 36 |
| March | .. | .. | 346 | 80 | 301 | 41 |
| April | .. | .. | 270 | 48 | 280 | 20 |
| May | .. | .. | 390 | 88 | 306 | 42 |
| June | .. | .. | 384 | 90 | 302 | 44 |
| July | .. | .. | 140 | 44 | 102 | 20 |
| | | | 3,611 | 800 | 2,930 | 352 |

| | | | | | | |
|--|----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| Minor Cases not seen by Surgeon | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 27 |
| Foot Classes | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 16 |
| Postural Classes | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 5 |
| Home Visits | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 316 |

This does not include children sent to Miss Malone or her attendances for children.

MILK SAMPLING

Designated Milk—This milk must comply with the requirements of the Milk (Special Designations) (Scotland) Order, 1951.

A.—Raw Milk—

- A total of 123 samples were taken from 17 farms holding a Tuberculin Tested licence; of these 20 (or 16.2%) failed to comply with the Order.
- Only 1 farm holds a Standard licence. This designation ends in September, 1954. 6 samples were taken—no failures.

B.—Pasteurised Milk—

25 samples were taken from Hillside, S.C.W.S. Creamery; of these 2 failed to comply.

Non-designated Milk—There is no legal standard for this milk, but the samples taken were subjected to the same tests as the Tuberculin Tested Milk and an attempt was made to keep producers to the same standards.

A total of 25 samples were taken from 5 farms; of these 7 were not entirely satisfactory.

School Milk—All schools in the County continued to get fresh Tuberculin Tested milk bottled at Hillside S.C.W.S. Creamery.

10 samples were taken, of these 2 were unsatisfactory.

Analyses of samples of Sweet Milk

The number of Registered Dairies in the County was 29.

| No. | Month of Sampling | Results (percentages) | | | | Butter Fat Averages per cent. |
|-----|-------------------|-----------------------|------|--------|------|-------------------------------|
| | | Res. | Fat | S.N.F. | Ash | |
| 1 | February | 12.45 | 3.54 | 8.91 | 0.74 | 3.56 |
| 2 | " | 11.68 | 3.12 | 8.56 | 0.71 | |
| 3 | " | 11.99 | 3.08 | 8.91 | 0.74 | |
| 4 | " | 11.06 | 2.67 | 8.39 | 0.69 | |
| 5 | " | 11.79 | 3.15 | 8.64 | 0.72 | |
| 6 | " | 12.44 | 3.53 | 8.91 | 0.74 | |
| 7 | " | 13.36 | 4.22 | 9.14 | 0.76 | |
| 8 | " | 13.25 | 4.02 | 9.23 | 0.77 | |
| 9 | " | 12.38 | 3.68 | 8.70 | 0.72 | |
| 10 | " | 12.26 | 3.58 | 8.68 | 0.72 | |
| 11 | " | 13.82 | 4.63 | 9.19 | 0.76 | |
| 12 | " | 12.14 | 3.45 | 8.69 | 0.72 | |
| 13 | March | 12.05 | 3.36 | 8.69 | 0.72 | 3.59 |
| 14 | " | 11.87 | 3.08 | 8.79 | 0.73 | |
| 15 | " | 11.72 | 3.26 | 8.46 | 0.70 | |
| 16 | " | 13.02 | 4.20 | 8.82 | 0.73 | |
| 17 | " | 12.80 | 3.81 | 8.99 | 0.74 | |
| 18 | " | 12.46 | 3.49 | 8.97 | 0.74 | |
| 19 | " | 12.85 | 3.89 | 8.96 | 0.74 | |
| 20 | " | 12.85 | 3.90 | 8.68 | 0.72 | |
| 21 | " | 12.71 | 3.71 | 9.00 | 0.75 | |
| 22 | " | 12.59 | 3.80 | 8.79 | 0.73 | |
| 23 | " | 12.36 | 3.76 | 8.60 | 0.72 | |
| 24 | " | 12.31 | 3.63 | 8.68 | 0.72 | |
| 25 | " | 12.58 | 3.74 | 8.84 | 0.73 | |
| 26 | " | 12.55 | 3.55 | 9.00 | 0.75 | |
| 27 | " | 11.53 | 2.72 | 8.81 | 0.73 | |
| 28 | " | 12.34 | 3.69 | 8.65 | 0.72 | |
| 29 | " | 12.66 | 3.85 | 8.81 | 0.73 | |
| 30 | " | 12.09 | 3.58 | 8.51 | 0.71 | |
| 31 | " | 12.47 | 3.91 | 8.56 | 0.71 | |
| 32 | " | 11.36 | 2.89 | 8.47 | 0.70 | |
| 33 | May | 11.92 | 3.07 | 8.85 | 0.74 | 3.63 |
| 34 | " | 12.67 | 3.69 | 8.98 | 0.74 | |
| 35 | " | 12.44 | 3.54 | 8.90 | 0.74 | |
| 36 | " | 11.86 | 3.30 | 8.56 | 0.71 | |
| 37 | " | 13.08 | 4.31 | 8.77 | 0.73 | |
| 38 | " | 12.90 | 4.02 | 8.88 | 0.74 | |
| 39 | " | 11.86 | 3.00 | 8.86 | 0.73 | |
| 40 | " | 12.40 | 3.56 | 8.84 | 0.73 | |
| 41 | " | 13.61 | 4.59 | 9.02 | 0.75 | |
| 42 | " | 13.13 | 4.50 | 8.63 | 0.72 | |
| 43 | " | 12.21 | 3.05 | 9.16 | 0.76 | |
| 44 | " | 12.05 | 3.24 | 8.81 | 0.75 | |
| 45 | " | 11.52 | 3.00 | 8.52 | 0.71 | |
| 46 | " | 11.57 | 2.87 | 8.70 | 0.72 | |
| 47 | " | 12.70 | 3.80 | 8.90 | 0.74 | |
| 48 | " | 12.90 | 3.98 | 8.92 | 0.74 | |
| 49 | " | 13.04 | 3.79 | 9.25 | 0.77 | |
| 50 | " | 13.55 | 4.28 | 9.27 | 0.77 | |
| 51 | " | 11.97 | 3.47 | 8.50 | 0.70 | |

| No. | Month of Sampling | Results (percentages) | | | | Butter Fat Averages per cent. |
|-----|-------------------|-----------------------|------|--------|------|-------------------------------|
| | | Res. | Fat | S.N.F. | Ash | |
| 52 | July | 11.73 | 3.16 | 8.57 | 0.71 | 3.60 |
| 53 | " | 12.51 | 3.45 | 9.06 | 0.75 | |
| 54 | " | 11.90 | 3.18 | 8.72 | 0.72 | |
| 55 | " | 12.85 | 4.23 | 8.62 | 0.72 | |
| 56 | " | 11.88 | 3.03 | 8.85 | 0.73 | |
| 57 | " | 13.01 | 4.32 | 8.69 | 0.72 | |
| 58 | " | 12.66 | 3.80 | 8.86 | 0.74 | |
| 59 | " | 12.53 | 3.60 | 8.93 | 0.74 | |
| 60 | October | 12.01 | 3.30 | 8.71 | 0.72 | 3.91 |
| 61 | " | 12.07 | 3.18 | 8.89 | 0.74 | |
| 62 | " | 12.52 | 3.69 | 8.83 | 0.73 | |
| 63 | " | 12.67 | 3.79 | 8.88 | 0.74 | |
| 64 | " | 12.07 | 3.37 | 8.70 | 0.72 | |
| 65 | " | 12.72 | 4.04 | 8.68 | 0.72 | |
| 66 | " | 13.50 | 4.58 | 8.92 | 0.74 | |
| 67 | " | 12.80 | 3.98 | 8.82 | 0.73 | |
| 68 | " | 14.12 | 4.84 | 9.28 | 0.77 | |
| 69 | " | 12.88 | 4.28 | 8.60 | 0.71 | |

FOOD AND DRUGS

83 samples were taken during the year. The articles sampled and the results of analyses were as follows:—

| Article | No. | Gen. |
|------------------|-----|------|
| Cream, Double | 1 | 1 |
| Cream, Synthetic | 1 | 1 |
| Ice Cream | 2 | 2 |
| Meat Cakes | 3 | 3 |
| Milk | 69 | 65 |
| Sausages | 7 | 7 |

ICE CREAM (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS

| | Premises | Vehicles |
|---|----------|----------|
| Number of Registrations granted in 1953 | — | — |
| Number of Registrations in force at end of 1953 | 6 | 2 |

REPORTS BY SANITARY INSPECTORS

LANDWARD AREA

In the sphere of environmental hygiene, the year 1953 was one of steady progress rather than of spectacular advancement and so far as the area covered by this report is concerned, it is only fair to record that shortage of qualified staff for almost half the year meant reducing to a minimum the time afforded to duties and inspections of a routine nature.

Water Supplies, Drainage and Sewage Disposal

As stated in my previous report, responsibility for all public water undertakings, public sewers and sewage disposal works is vested in the County Road Surveyor and no complaints regarding any of these important services came to my notice during the year under review.

The Sanitary Inspector, however, is responsible for all matters pertaining to private water supplies and drainage schemes and in connection with the former, the undernoted visits were made and samples procured with the object of furnishing proprietors with "Certificates of Purity" to enable them to obtain grants from the Department of Agriculture in terms of the Agriculture (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1941 and 1944.

| Visits | Samples | | Results | | | | | |
|--------|----------|-----------------|----------|------|-----|-----------------|------|-----|
| | Chemical | Bacteriological | Chemical | | | Bacteriological | | |
| | | | Good | Fair | Bad | Good | Fair | Bad |
| 13 | 1 | 5 | 1* | — | — | 4 | 1 | — |

*but very hard.

On 10 occasions the advice of the Sanitary Inspector was sought in regard to the siting of septic tanks to serve individual dwellings and to the laying out of private drainage schemes and, following the completion of these arrangements, tests were successfully applied to 7 house drainage systems.

Following a complaint that the River Tweed was being polluted by sewage effluent from one of the Border hospitals a report, with recommendations, was submitted for the consideration of the Board of Management and although I am unable, in this report, to state that remedial measures have been adopted, the matter is being actively pursued.

Cleansing and Refuse Disposal

The service provided by the Burgh of Selkirk continued in operation throughout the year and so far as I am aware did not give cause for complaint.

The question of providing a similar service for a number of other villages in the Landward area of the County is still under review, and in the case of one village in particular an organised service would be a great advantage and a deterrent to nuisances being perpetrated by a number of householders who persist in the indiscriminate dumping of refuse.

Offensive Trades

No offensive trades are carried on in the Landward Area of the County.

Factories and Workshops

The number of mechanical and non-mechanical factories on the register remains at 8 and 1 respectively, and they were visited on 3 occasions during the year.

Schools

The modernization of school sanitary facilities and the provision of additional conveniences continued on an arranged programme under the direction of the County Architect and one complaint received in regard to a defective drainage system was speedily remedied by the provision of a new septic tank and outfall drain.

Common Lodging Houses

There are no common lodging houses in the County.

Burial Grounds

These continue to be well conducted and were free from nuisance.

Infectious Diseases

Visits of enquiry were carried out in connection with 6 reported cases of Scarlet Fever, 3 of which occurred amongst members of the same household. Appropriate terminal disinfection measures were taken where possible.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

A suggestion that Selkirk County Council should engage the full-time services of a Rat Extermination Officer has not yet been implemented, the work being carried out, as formerly, by the staff of Roxburgh County Council. They, acting on receipt of complaints, written and verbal, made 23 visits to different types of premises both in the Landward area and in Selkirk Burgh and so far as I am aware, in every case, the measures taken for the extermination of rats and mice were completely successful. Some considerable time was devoted to dealing with a rat infestation in a temporary food store which, happily, soon after reverted to its former use as a garage. Had this not happened it is likely that regular treatment, at considerable cost to the owners would have been required, as the premises did not lend themselves to being completely rat-proofed and re-infestation was extremely likely.

Miscellaneous Nuisances

Some 13 complaints were investigated under this heading and, in all cases, the various nuisances were abated without recourse to written intimations.

Food Supply
Milk

Milk and Dairies (Scotland) Act, 1914

No new applications were received in course of the year for the registration of premises in terms of Section 7 of the above Act. The opportunity was taken, however, to survey all byres in which cows were being milked and those coming up to the prescribed standard were added to the appropriate register.

One producer-retailer, the tenant of a farm on which, it was decided, the premises were so old and so badly laid out that they could not be improved at a reasonable cost, gave up the milk round which he had built up and successfully carried on over a great many years and now dispatches his milk to a local creamery where it is pasteurised.

Milk (Special Designations) (Scotland) Order, 1951

The number of designated licences held at 31st December, 1953 was as follows:—

| Producers | | | Total | Producer/Retailers |
|-------------------|----|----|-------|--------------------|
| Certified | .. | .. | Nil | Nil |
| Tuberculin Tested | .. | .. | 17 | Nil |
| Standard | .. | .. | 1 | Nil |
| Pasteurised | .. | .. | Nil | Nil |

| Dealers' Licences | No. of Licences (Holders) |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| Certified | 4 |
| Tuberculin Tested | 5 |
| Standard | 1 (issued for period to 30/9/54) |
| Pasteurised | 1 |

Dealers' Supplementary Licences

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| Certified | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | Nil |
| Tuberculin Tested | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | Nil |
| Standard | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | Nil |
| Pasteurised | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 |

No licences were suspended or revoked.

All dairy farms and "dry" dairies were inspected in the course of the year as was the single pasteurisation premises in which approximately 4,000 gallons of milk are handled daily.

Conditions under which designated milk is produced continue to vary. I am pleased to be able to report, however, that, at one dairy farm, a badly designed and poorly constructed byre was improved and generally brought up to the prescribed standard and, in four other instances, new and up-to-date byres were built. It is to be hoped that this upward trend will be maintained.

Milk-in-Schools Scheme

As in previous years all milk consumed under the above scheme was "Tuberculin Tested" and distribution arrangements, so far as I am aware, gave no cause for complaint. Details of samples taken have been included in the Milk Officer's report.

Non-Designated Milk

| Producers | Producer/Retailer | No. of Cows |
|-----------|-------------------|-------------|
| 4 | 1 | 85 |

Milk and Dairies (Scotland) Order, 1934

The following is provided at the request of the Department of Health:

| | |
|---|-----|
| (a) The number of retail purveyors of milk | 7 |
| (b) The number of producers and wholesale dealers who do not sell milk by retail (includes 4 Non-designated Producers) .. | 22 |
| (c) The approximate average number of cows in registered premises | 31 |
| (d) The approximate number of dairies exempted from registration | 184 |
| (e) The approximate average number of cows in premises exempted from registration | 2 |

Ice Cream (Scotland) Regulations, 1948

The position regarding the number of registered premises and vehicles at 31st December was as follows:—

| | Premises | Vehicles |
|--------------------------------------|----------|----------|
| No. of registrations in force | 8 | 2 |
| No. of registrations granted | Nil | Nil |
| No. of registrations cancelled | Nil | Nil |

All premises were inspected at regular intervals and although in at least two instances, they are sub-standard and cannot, for one reason or another be improved, it was evident that dealers generally were aware of their responsibility to the public and were making an effort to manufacture ice cream under the best possible hygienic conditions.

Any minor irregularities noted were immediately reported to and effectively dealt with by the dealers concerned.

The following samples were taken:—

| | Result |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Chemical | Genuine Non-Genuine |
| 6 | 3 3 |
| Bacteriological | Satisfactory Unsatisfactory |
| 16 | 4 12 |

Food Premises

In course of the year an inspection of a number of food premises, including hotels, restaurants, bakehouses, butchers' shops and works canteens was undertaken in company with the Department's Food Hygiene Officer and conditions, generally, were found to be reasonably satisfactory. The works canteens, especially, were of a high standard

Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928

2 formal and 81 informal samples were taken during the year. The articles sampled and the results of analyses were as follows:—

| Article | No. | Formal | In-formal | Genuine | Non-Genuine |
|------------------|-----|--------|-----------|---------|-------------|
| Cream, Double | 1 | — | 1 | 1 | — |
| Cream, Synthetic | 1 | — | 1 | 1 | — |
| Meat Cakes | 3 | — | 3 | 3 | — |
| Milk | 69 | 2 | 67 | 65 | 4 |
| Sausages | 7 | — | 7 | 7 | — |

The Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) (Scotland) Regulations, 1925-53

The Labelling of Food Orders

No contraventions of the above enactments were noted.

Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act, 1926

No samples were taken under the above Act.

Housing

As formerly, a great deal of time was taken up in dealing with matters under the above heading.

Housing (Scotland) Act, 1950—Part II

No notices in terms of Section 9 of the above Act were served during the year.

Housing (Scotland) Act, 1950—Part VI

Grants totalling £600 were paid under the Local Authority's scheme for assisting replacement of unsatisfactory houses occupied by agricultural workers, two new 4-apartment dwellings being built.

Housing (Scotland) Act, 1950—Part VII

The undernoted applications for grants towards the cost of "schemes of improvements" were approved:—

| Improvements | No. of Houses | Approved Cost | Amount of Grant |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 8 | 12 | £6,543 2s od. | £2,954 10s 11d |

It is rather obvious in Selkirkshire, as in other Local Authority areas, that owners of properties are not taking full advantage of the facilities offered by this part of the Act and their apparent reticence to do so seems to me to be due to a general lack of publicity.

Building Byelaws

16 applications were approved under the Council's Building Byelaws scheme and the erection of one 4-apartment bungalow by private enterprise was commenced.

Certificates of Occupation

In the course of the year Certificates of Occupation were issued in respect of:—

- (i) Eight—4-apartment County Council houses.
- (ii) Two—3-apartment County Council houses.
- (iii) One—4-apartment Nurse's House.
- (iv) One—4-apartment Policeman's House.

Tents, Vans and Sheds

Byelaws for the regulation of tents, vans, sheds and similar structures used for human habitation in the Landward area of the County came into force on 16th July and as from that date "the owner, occupier or person in charge" was required to give seven days' notice to the Medical Officer of Health of the situation of the site of the structure if it was to remain on the site for any period longer than 24 hours.

A number of intimations were lodged by prospective caravan dwellers and, in each case, the opportunity was taken to inspect the caravan and the proposed site. Conditions, generally, were found to comply with the requirements of the Byelaws, but this form of holiday has increased in popularity to such an extent since the war that the provision of an organised and controlled caravan site is now almost a necessity in most holiday localities if nuisance conditions are to be avoided.

BURGH OF GALASHIELS

Water Supply

The water supply is obtained from Knowesdean Reservoir and there was no interruption throughout the year.

No records of consumption were available as the new measuring apparatus has not yet been fitted to the 12 inch main.

The new control valve on the outlet from the reservoir was installed during the year. This resulted in a substantial conservation of the supply but it created difficulties with the existing chlorine dosage plant, in that no adjustment could be made for fluctuating demand. It was agreed that new apparatus be installed as soon as possible and the work

is now in hand. The importance of reliable and accurate chlorinating apparatus cannot be too highly stressed as, with the absence of filters this is the burgh's only safeguard in the use of raw water which may be at times of doubtful bacterial purity.

Monthly samples are taken for bacterial examination and throughout the year these showed satisfactory results.

The new storage cistern was finally approved and work is expected to commence early in 1954.

Drainage and Sewage Disposal

The burgh is drained by the separate system, soil sewers discharging to the sewage disposal works at Galafoot and surface water sewers to the river at convenient points.

Throughout the year routine maintenance was carried out and no chokages occurred.

Complaints of bad smells, in the vicinity of Market Street particularly, were received on several occasions and on investigation these were found to be caused by the effluent from the new process at the Skinworks. This effluent is of such a polluting character that it gives rise to a heavy concentration of noxious gas in the sewer at considerable distances from the Works. Closed type manhole covers were fitted in Market Street and a ventilating shaft erected at the King's Hotel. These measures appear to have removed the cause for complaint in that area but towards the end of the year further complaints were received from the Stirling Place area and investigations are now being made with a view to selecting a site for another ventilating shaft.

The sewage disposal works functioned satisfactorily and in spite of the age and condition of the machinery no major breakdowns occurred. Following acceptance of tenders for new machinery the Department of Health has now sanctioned the whole of the reconstruction works and the Town Council's engineers are engaged in the final stages of preparation.

The average daily flow recorded at the works was 1,498,000 gallons.

Following the analyst's report on the effect of gas liquor on the final effluent from the works, the Scottish Gas Board were informed that in no circumstances would we accept other than spent liquor, which at the moment they are not in a position to produce.

Cleansing

Twice weekly collection of refuse was continued throughout the year with a special collection of garden refuse once weekly between April and October. So far it has been found possible to cope with new housing areas by re-arrangement of districts.

Refuse is incinerated at the refuse destructor in Huddersfield Street and the resulting clinker disposed of at Galafoot Tip. On occasions, the plant is unable to deal with the whole of the refuse but as the surplus

is not yet large, the alternative of shift working has been avoided up to the present. The destructor has operated practically continuously since 1949 with only minor repairs and a complete overhaul is now due.

An endeavour has been made to obtain a site suitable for controlled tipping of crude refuse thus allowing the closing down of the destructor to be considered, but so far we have not been successful. The level of the Galafoot Tip is being raised to cope with clinker disposal, pending obtaining a new tip.

The cleansing vehicles gave good service and a mechanical loading shovel was added to our plant to facilitate the handling of clinker. This shovel was particularly useful during icy weather as lorries could be loaded with ashes or grit in a few minutes thus reducing the hiring of additional transport.

The beat system of street sweeping continued in operation, also the Saturday afternoon sweeping of main streets. The increase in litter following the de-rationing of sweets has been noticeable and more so at weekends. It was found necessary to increase Sunday sweeping to cope with the Saturday evening litter which is particularly bad in the vicinity of fish restaurants. It is becoming increasingly difficult to recruit suitable labour for the cleansing department and if the situation does not improve we will have no alternative but to adopt mechanical street sweeping.

At the request of the Scrap Campaign Committee for Scotland a scrap metal week was organised in May and produced 17 tons 5 cwts. of scrap. The wastepaper market showed signs of recovery and towards the end of the year there was a ready market for all our collections though at much reduced prices.

The total income from salvage during the year was £558 12s 6d.

Housing

Sixty houses were completed during the year. This was 20 more than the previous year and the highest number since 1949 when 66 houses were erected. The total includes 30 Dunedin non-traditional houses erected by the Scottish Special Housing Association at Gala Policies and actually the completion of traditional houses was 10 down on the previous year.

At the end of the year, 38 traditional houses were under construction at Gala Policies and 70 Thomson non-traditional houses at Wester Langlee site. Progress at the latter site has been encouraging. Site servicing was only started in January and house erection in September. Progress is so good to date that all of these houses should be completed by the middle of 1954, and there is no reason why the total of houses completed in the burgh should not reach three figures for 1954.

Sufficient sites are available for a further 200 houses and the Scottish Special Housing Association has undertaken to erect 50 of these at Wester Langlee.

Four applications for improvement grants under the Housing (Scotland) Act, 1950, were approved and none refused.

| | 2 apt. | 3 apt. | 4 apt. | 5 apt. | Temp- porary 3 apt. | S.S.H.A. Ltd. | |
|-----------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------------------------|---------------|--------|
| | | | | | | 3 apt. | 4 apt. |
| Erected prior to 1953 | 10 | 257 | 238 | 40 | 57 | — | — |
| Erected during 1953 | — | 16 | 14 | — | — | 14 | 16 |
| Under construction at 31.12.53 | — | 18 | 20 | — | — | 34 | 36 |
| | 10 | 291 | 272 | 40 | 57 | 48 | 52 |

Nuisances and Complaints

Thirty-five nuisances and complaints were dealt with during the year. Complaints were mostly in respect of housing defects and as in previous years we experienced difficulty in having several of them remedied. The repairs allowance which is proposed under the new Act may aid owners to meet their repairs commitments more readily but it is possible that in the case of the lower rented houses they may have difficulty in making and maintaining houses in all respects fit for habitation on an expenditure of 40 per cent. of existing rent and many may elect to forgo the increase.

The sale of one and two-roomed houses which become vacant seems now to be the normal practice of owners and some of these houses stand empty, pending sale, longer than the general housing position in the burgh warrants. The sale of individual houses in tenement property creates its own problems for a sanitary department. In one case, seventeen different owners are liable for the upkeep of one common wash-house.

Offensive Trades

The Skinworks in Wilderhaugh is the only offensive trade in the burgh.

No cause for complaint was found so far as the normal processes were concerned but the new process to accelerate the separation of wool from skin in the treatment of fleec trimmings gave rise to very many complaints. The odours emanating from this process, which is known as pieing, are nauseous in the extreme and so far the company has failed to find a satisfactory method of treatment. Activated carbon filters which appeared to be promising were finally abandoned after prolonged experiment. After further consultation with the experts, including Dr Birse, the alkali inspector for the Department of Health for Scotland, whom the local authority called in to advise them, treatment with hypochlorite was tried out. The results have not been encouraging and gaseous chlorine is now to be substituted.

At this stage it can only be recorded that both the company and the local authority are fully alive to the necessity of finding a solution to the problem or altering the process to prevent emission of the obnoxious fumes.

Slaughterhouse

There is no improvement to report in the condition of the Slaughterhouse. Negotiations with the Ministry of Food to arrive at a mutually satisfactory basis for financial responsibility for improvement works were not concluded. With the announcement by the Ministry that they intend to vacate the premises at an early date, further consideration has been delayed. It is difficult to anticipate what slaughtering facilities will require to be provided in future and to what extent the local authority will be responsible for their provision. There has been an indication that it is not proposed to reduce the total number of slaughterhouses at present in use but the situation here is that the buildings are obsolete and liable to flooding and a new slaughterhouse within the burgh or in the area is called for. In any event the existing premises should not continue in use in their present condition for any length of time.

Food Inspection

One hundred and twenty-one condemnation certificates were issued in respect of 8 cwts. 3 lbs. of food which was found to be unfit for human consumption.

Tinned foods, again, at 6 cwts. 44 lbs. comprised most of the total. A great many of these tins become unsound through damage in transit and no doubt this is general throughout the country. The loss through careless handling must be considerable.

Factories

There are 184 factories on the register made up of 139 mechanical and 45 non-mechanical. One hundred and twenty inspections were made and 25 written notices sent drawing attention to defects such as lack of cleanliness, defective or deficient sanitary accommodation. In nineteen instances the defects were remedied and six have been continued.

Shops

Regular inspections of shop premises are carried out by the shops inspector. No defects were brought to our notice for further action.

Common Lodging Houses and Houses Let-in-Lodgings

There are no premises under these headings in the burgh.

Schools

The schools were found to be well kept. Minor defects in the sanitary accommodation were brought to the notice of the Education Authority and remedied.

The sanitary accommodation at Ladhope and St. Peter's Schools is of a low standard and while the commitments of the Education Authority are heavy, it is hoped that they will be in a position to undertake improvements in the near future.

Burial Grounds

The four burial grounds are well maintained. Constructional work at the new burial ground at Heatheryett is proceeding somewhat slowly and accelerated progress will be necessary in order to have ground available when Eastlands is fully utilised.

BURGH OF SELKIRK

Water Supply

Early in March it became apparent that unless snow or rain fell in considerable quantities a shortage similar to that of 1952 was possible. Towards the end of that month it was necessary to augment the supply from the Howden Wells by drawing from Forest Mill Well. This, happily, was only necessary for about a week and thereafter throughout the year ample quantities were available.

The Centrifugal Pump which broke down in October, 1952, was delivered and refitted in the middle of February and thereafter, apart from the periods mentioned below, delivered virtually all the water required.

For short periods in June, July and August the quantity of water available in the Mill Lade was insufficient to drive the turbine and centrifugal pumps at speeds capable of supplying the quantities required and it was necessary to bring both the deisel and electric motors into action to drive the ram pumps as auxiliaries.

During the whole year constant day and night inspections were in operation and the waste figure was maintained at a minimum.

The second section of the emergency supply to Bannerfield was laid from the Long Philipburn to Selkirk Bridge. The balance of the link up will be laid during 1954.

Samples of water taken throughout the year, both before and after chlorination, were all satisfactory.

Constant scouring has improved the condition of the pipes in the Bridge Street/Cannon Street Extension Area, but there is still some difficulty in feeding the four houses at Linglie.

Experiments to improve the pressure in the Tait's Hill/Upper Hillside Terrace Area were successful, but there is little doubt that no more can be done in this matter.

Cleansing

The routine of street sweeping and the collection of Household and Trade Refuse continued as in previous years and on the whole proved satisfactory. Garden Refuse was removed every Saturday from late April to early November.

As reported last year, The Town Council had decided to use Rosebank Quarry as the Refuse Depot as from the beginning of 1953 and on 5th January tipping was commenced. Every effort was made from the start to justify the Town Council's confidence in Controlled Tipping and it was not long before everyone appreciated that no nuisance was likely to arise and by the end of the year only one complaint regarding paper being blown from the Quarry was received and this complaint on investigation proved to be groundless. It was necessary to reorganise the Cleansing Collection routes and the central position of Rosebank Quarry enabled this to be done fairly easily. There was no doubt at the end of the year that there had been a sharp drop in Cleansing Collection and disposal charges due to the short hauls involved and to even less labour being necessary at the Depot despite the strict application of Controlled Tipping.

The old Depot at Linglie was used for tipping all refuse other than Household Refuse, but due to the intermittent tipping it was impossible to keep a close watch on what was happening, particularly with refuse brought by Contractors and road haulage vehicles. To combat this, it was decided to provide, on the old Refuse Depot near the Sewage Works, a suitable area, duly screened off, where all types of combustible refuse could be burned and this has greatly helped the position. This site for burning combustible material has been very well patronised indeed and should prove a boon in the future.

Fire broke out during the year once again at Linglie Depot and it was some little time before it was brought under control, towards the middle of the year. During the last six months there was no sign of fire and it was considered that no further trouble would be experienced in this connection in the future.

Refuse Collection and disposal from Ettrickhaugh Special Cleansing District was continued at the request of Selkirk County Council.

As was general throughout the country there was no sale of Waste Paper during the first nine months of the year although the normal collections were maintained and the paper burned on the site mentioned above. Early in October it was possible to sell the stocks in hand and baling once again commenced and a ready market was still available at the end of the year.

Sewers and Sewage Works

Both the sewerage and disposal systems functioned satisfactorily and samples of the effluent revealed a reasonably high standard.

Ettrick once again changed its course somewhat and this has greatly helped in the dilution of the effluent at an early stage after reaching the

river. Each year it has to be mentioned that the sludge beds are far too small and unsuitable for the work they are asked to do. Several small experiments were attempted, but without great success. The large depression adjacent in the Old Refuse Depot is now rapidly filling up, and once again it must be stated that this is a matter calling for urgent attention.

Slaughterhouses

This was let during the year to a firm of Knackers who use it as an emergency Slaughterhouse. Their operations were satisfactory.

General Inspections

Routine inspections revealed little of note apart from the usual minor nuisances for which verbal warnings were generally sufficient. Only two houses were found to be in a dirty condition but a verbal warning followed by constant inspections soon produced an improvement.

Housing

21 Houses were occupied at Philiphaugh Housing Scheme during the year.

Seven applications for Improvement Grant under Housing (Scotland) Act, 1950, were received and of these 6 were granted. All applications were from owner occupiers, and it seems a pity that applications are not forthcoming for the improvement of tenanted houses. In addition to the applications received the advice of this Department was sought in many other cases. Generally speaking, however, either the owner occupier could not afford to bring the house up to the required standard or lack of suitable space for expansion or conversion proved the stumbling blocks.

6 Dean of Guild Warrants were granted for the improvement of houses which did not qualify for Improvement Grant.

The Town Council imposed a Closing Order on one house after the necessary procedure had been followed.

Burial Grounds

These are being conducted and maintained in a satisfactory manner.

Schools

The five schools are being kept in good order. Improved lavatory accommodation was provided at one school. The increase in the school population at Philiphaugh School, due to the extension of Philiphaugh Housing Scheme, has produced problems, and proposals for expanding and modernising the school are in hand.

Common Lodging Houses

There are no Common Lodging Houses.

Infectious Disease

Nine cases of Infectious Disease were notified and dealt with.

Offensive Trades

The firm engaged in the process of skins continue to conduct their works in a most excellent manner. They are rather cramped for space in providing facilities for their staff, but during the year they endeavoured to improve these with extra lavatory accommodation and spray baths.

Factories

Frequent inspections revealed nothing of note and apart from three intimations regarding the dirty condition of W.C. accommodation no action was called for.

Shops

Regular inspections were made of the shops in the Burgh. The general position is on the whole very good, but there is room for improvement in many cases. In the majority of these, however, lack of space is the main stumbling block and in certain instances temporary arrangements were made which while not altogether what they should be, were at least an improvement.

Selkirk Hill

The camping ground on Selkirk Hill was closed and no campers were permitted throughout the season.

Public conveniences

These were well kept and it is pleasing to report that the damage from vandalism was considerably reduced.

